weatherables
by USA Vinyl

Privacy Fence Installation Guide

GENERAL POST INSTALLATION

IMPORTANT

When installing your fence or gate, we recommend a minimum of 2" clearance between the bottom of the panel and the ground. This will allow enough clearance for the gate to swing freely.
Measure, assemble and install your gates first (even pre-cut gate kits). The installed gate will set the height of the fence being installed. Failure to do so may result in a poor installation. Dry fit the cut rails into gate socket posts. Make any needed adjustments prior to gluing your gates. For various reasons, gate sizes may vary in width. Post and caps sold separately.

1. Survey land for special features such as obstructions, underground cables, or concrete from the old fence. Be sure to follow all local building codes and obtain a building permit if necessary. Contact your local utilities prior to digging.

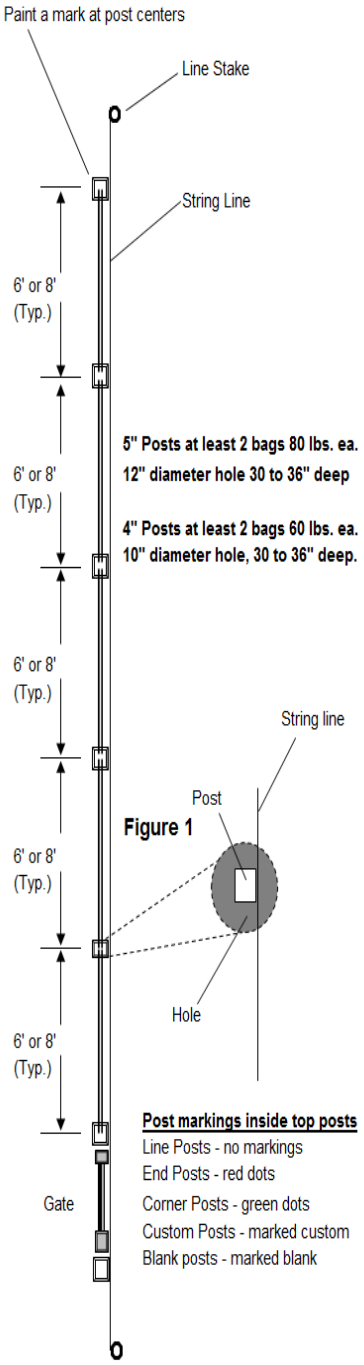
2. Install the line stakes (secure stakes firmly) and run a string line 1.5" to 2" off of the ground, **(see figure 3 located on page 2.)** Line should not be distorted. Avoid tall grass, weeds and other obstructions. The line should be very tight!

3. Use a tape measure to measure and mark where the posts are to be installed. Most of the posts are to be installed 72" or 96" from center of post to center of post. The Semi-Privacy panels will have a 97" from center of post to center of post layout. **Always follow the information on your C.A.D. diagram.**

4. Remove string line leaving the stakes and dig the post holes. For 5" posts you will need a 12" dia. hole and for 4" posts you will need 10" dia. hole. Accuracy in the depths will help to simplify post installation. Run a string line on side of posts to insure fence line is straight. (**See figure 1).** The recommended depth of holes is 30" - 36". Check local codes and frost lines as greater depth may be required for your specific area. **NOTE: If installing with Fast 2k, the manufacturer recommends the diameter of the post holes as 6" in diameter for a 4" post and 8" in diameter for a 5" post.**

5. We recommend installing 1 post and 1 section at a time but there are many methods to install. As long as the end result is positive, feel free to alter this method to suit your installation needs. Concrete and plumb the first post and insert assembled panel rails into the first post. Next, have the second post sitting in the adjacent hole, insert assembled panel rails into the second post, then concrete and plumb. Repeat for all panels and posts.

6. To insure a quality job, it is strongly recommended that all posts be set in concrete. To do this, hold post in place to prevent slippage. Fill remainder of hole around post with concrete to 3" below ground level. Be sure to work concrete into hole around post as needed. We recommend you mix concrete and pour wet. Use a minimum of 2 of the 80 lbs. bags of quickcrete for each 5" post and 2 of the 60 lbs. bags for each 4" post.


Paint a mark at post centers
Line Stake
String Line
6' or 8' (Typ.)
6' or 8' (Typ.)
6' or 8' (Typ.)
6' or 8' (Typ.)
6' or 8' (Typ.)
Gate
5" Posts at least 2 bags 80 lbs. ea.
12" diameter hole 30 to 36" deep
4" Posts at least 2 bags 60 lbs. ea.
10" diameter hole, 30 to 36" deep.
String line
Post
Hole
Post markings inside top posts
Line Posts - no markings
End Posts - red dots
Corner Posts - green dots
Custom Posts - marked custom
Blank posts - marked blank
Figure 1

7. **Recommended:** drill holes (1/4" bit) through the underside of rails to allow water to escape. If your bottom rails have ribs as shown in figure 2, you will need a bit long enough (1/4"x4") to drill through the upper rib. **Recommended: If you are filling the inside of your post with concrete you must drill holes to prevent sagging.**

HELPFUL HINTS:

- If post does not already have a concrete hole from the factory, drill a hole at least 3/4" dia. 12" up from bottom of post. This will help concrete get into post.
- When gluing picket caps, place a thin bead of glue inside the picket and press picket cap into place.
- Post caps should not be glued in the event you want to upgrade to a different style. A small amount of clear silicone on the inside corner of post cap will secure cap to post.
- Clean fence using a formula of 1/3 Cup powdered detergent, 2/3 Cup household cleaner and 1 gallon water. Rinse thoroughly.
- For stain removal use either lacquer thinner or soft scrub with bleach. Rinse thoroughly with water after using either of these.

HIGH WIND INSTALLATION

If the fence is over 6' tall or you are located in a high wind area it is mandatory that you will fill the inside of the posts at least 22" above grade with concrete <u>AFTER THE PANELS ARE INSTALLED</u>. Prior to installing panels into the posts tape the lower rail to prevent concrete backflow.

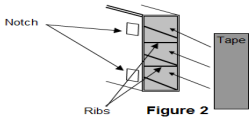
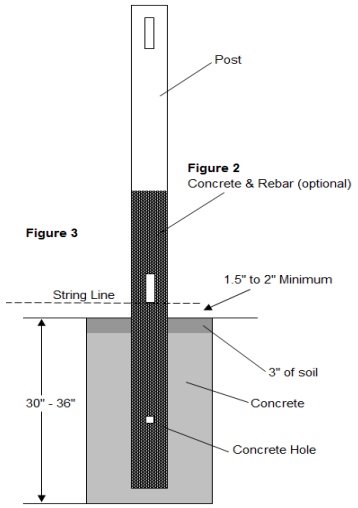


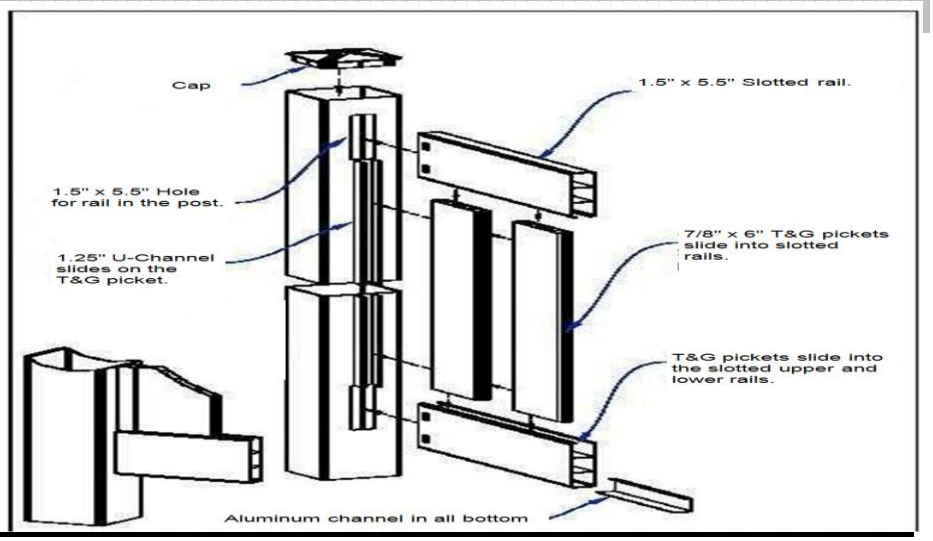
Figure 2



INSTALLATION STEPS

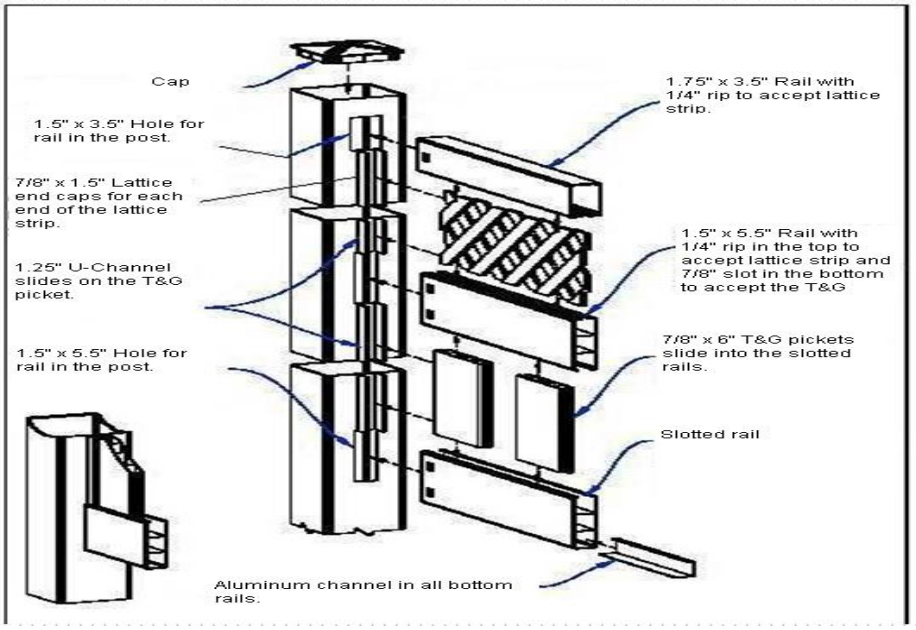
Solid Privacy – All heights

1. Follow instructions for digging holes and layout.
2. Install 1 post (post A) with concrete around the post – level and plumb.
3. Have another post (post B) sitting in the adjacent hole.
4. Install the bottom and top-rail in post A.
5. Slide the T&G pickets between the bottom and top-rail (don't forget the U-channel on first and last pickets).
6. Install the bottom rail in post B.
7. Install the top rail in post B.
8. Put concrete around post B and level and plumb.


Cap
1.5" x 5.5" Slotted rail.
1.5" x 5.5" Hole for rail in the post.
7/8" x 6" T&G pickets slide into slotted rails.
1.25" U-Channel slides on the T&G picket.
T&G pickets slide into the slotted upper and lower rails.
Aluminum channel in all bottom

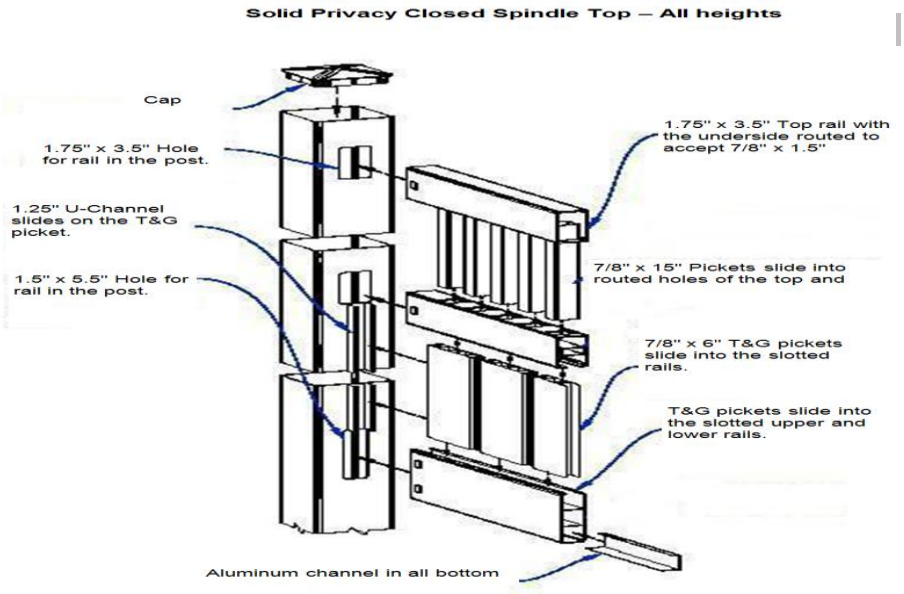
Solid Privacy with Lattice – All heights

1. Follow instructions for digging holes and layout.
2. Install 1 post (post A) with concrete around the post – level and plumb.
3. Have another post (post B) sitting in the adjacent hole.
4. Install the bottom and mid-rail in post A.
5. Slide the T&G pickets between the bottom and mid-rail (don't forget the U-channel on first and last pickets).
6. Install the bottom rail in post B.
7. Install the top rail in post A.
8. "Slide" the lattice strip between the mid-rail and the top rail (don't forget the lattice end channels).
9. Install the mid-rail and top rail in post B.
10. Put concrete around post B and level and plumb.


Cap
1.75" x 3.5" Rail with 1/4" rip to accept lattice strip.
1.5" x 3.5" Hole for rail in the post.
7/8" x 1.5" Lattice end caps for each end of the lattice strip.
1.5" x 5.5" Rail with 1/4" rip in the top to accept lattice strip and 7/8" slot in the bottom to accept the T&G
1.25" U-Channel slides on the T&G picket.
1.5" x 5.5" Hole for rail in the post.
7/8" x 6" T&G pickets slide into the slotted rails.
Slotted rail
Aluminum channel in all bottom rails.

Solid Privacy Closed Spindle Top

1	Follow instructions for digging holes and layout.
2	Install 1 post (post A) with concrete around the post – level and plumb.
3	Have another post (post B) sitting in the adjacent hole.
4	Install the bottom and mid-rail in post A.
5	Slide the T&G pickets between the bottom and mid-rail (don't forget the U-channel on first and last pickets).
6	Install the bottom rail in post B.
7	Install the top rail in post A.
8	Put the pickets in the holes between the top rail and the mid-rail.
9	Install the top rail and mid-rail in post B.
10	Put concrete around post B and level and plumb.
11	Repeat down the fence line.


Solid Privacy Closed Spindle Top – All heights
Cap
1.75" x 3.5" Hole for rail in the post.
1.25" U-Channel slides on the T&G picket.
1.5" x 5.5" Hole for rail in the post.
1.75" x 3.5" Top rail with the underside routed to accept 7/8" x 1.5"
7/8" x 15" Pickets slide into routed holes of the top and
7/8" x 6" T&G pickets slide into the slotted rails.
T&G pickets slide into the slotted upper and lower rails.
Aluminum channel in all bottom

Solid Privacy with Mid Rail – All heights

1	Follow instructions for digging holes and layout.
2	Install 1 post (post A) with concrete around the post – level and plumb.
3	Have another post (post B) sitting in the adjacent hole.
4	Install the bottom and mid-rail in post A.
5	Slide the T&G pickets between the bottom and mid-rail (don't forget the U-channel on first and last pickets).
6	Install the bottom rail in post B.
7	Install the top rail in post A.
8	Slide the T&G pickets between the mid-rail and the top-rail (don't forget the U-channel on first and last pickets).
9	Install the mid-rail and the top-rail into post B.
11	Put concrete around post B and level and plumb.
12	Repeat down the fence line.

Semi - Privacy and Pool styles that have a middle rail (5' or taller).

1	Follow instructions for digging holes and layout located on page one.
2	Install 1 post (post A) with concrete around the post. Level and plumb.
3	Have another post (post B) sitting in the adjacent hole.
4	Insert the bottom and middle rails into post A. The middle rails will have routed holes on the top and bottom of the rail. The larger routed holes should face towards the ground.
5	Insert the bottom and mid-rails in post B.
6	Insert the top rail into post A with the opposite end (at post B) upward towards the sky at an angle.
7	Slowly insert the pickets one at a time as you lower the rail into place.
8	As you near the last few pickets it will be necessary to pull post B outward to insert the top rail.
9	Put concrete around post B and level (horizontal) and plumb (vertical).
10	Repeat the above method down the fence line.

PANEL ADJUSTMENTS

"CUTTING DOWN THE RAILS"

Under many conditions panels may be "cut down," or reduced in length. Please consider the following information and suggestions regarding these particular styles of fence:

Privacy Fence - the privacy panels include 6" wide T&G pickets, it is best to reduce the length of the panel in increments of 6". If you do not follow this course, you may have to "rip" the length of the picket, which would likely require the use of a saw. Once you have determined the actual length of panel needed, cut only one end of the rails to achieve the desired measurement. **Note: The middle and top rails of the "picket top style fence" will likely need to be cut at both ends.**

SECURING SHORTENED PANELS

In instances where rails must be cut down, try to cut material from one end only when possible as this will ensure that you replace only one set of notches. After cutting any rail, you will need to make accomodations to replace the notches that you have removed. Notches are required on the ends of the rails to keep the rail snugly secured inside the post.

OPTION 1 (RECOMMENDED)

After the rails are installed, insert a screw at each end of the rail on the face of the rails, outside of the post. We recommend a small pan head size number 12 stainless steel screw. After the screws are installed you may want to paint it to match the color of your material. You can use standard spray-paint or you may even use auto touch up paint found at your local auto parts store.

OPTION 2

If option 1 does not fit your needs you may want to consider this option. A simple method for replacing notches on the top rail is to drive a stainless steel screw into the rail through the opening in the top of the post. This will make certain that the top rail remains inside the post if force is applied to pull it out.

A method for replacing the notches on a bottom rail also utilizes a stainless steel screw. Instead of driving the screw partially into the top wall of the rail, insert it fully into the front face of the rail as close to the end as possible. While simultaneously inserting the rail into the post, use applied pressure from your thumbs to deflect or "bow in" the face of the rail enough so that the head of the screw passes through the routed opening of the post. This method will also ensure that the top rail remains inside the post if force is applied to pull it out.